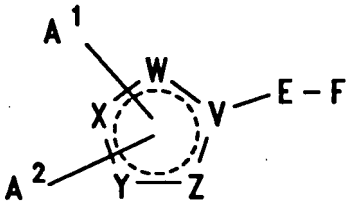
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of formula I, or a salt or prodrug thereof:



(I)

wherein the broken circle represents two non-adjacent double bonds in any position in the five-membered ring;

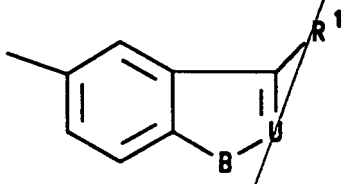
two, three or four of V, W, X, Y and Z represent nitrogen and the remainder represent carbon provided that, when two of V, W, X, Y and Z represent nitrogen and the remainder represent carbon, then the said nitrogen atoms are in non-adjacent positions within the five-membered ring;

A^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydrocarbon, a heterocyclic group, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, $-OR^x$, $-SR^x$, $-NR^xR^y$, $-NR^xCOR^y$, $-NR^xCO_2R^y$, $-NR^xSO_2R^y$, and $-NR^zCTNR^xR^y$;

A^2 represents a non-bonded electron pair when four of V, W, X, Y and Z represent nitrogen and the other represents carbon; or, when two or three of V, W, X, Y and Z represent nitrogen and the remainder represent carbon, A^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydrocarbon, a heterocyclic group, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, $-OR^x$, $-SR^x$, $-NR^xR^y$, $-NR^xCOR^y$, $-NR^xCO_2R^y$, $-NR^xSO_2R^y$, and $-NR^zCTNR^xR^y$;

E represents a bond or a straight or branched alkylene chain containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

F represents a group of formula

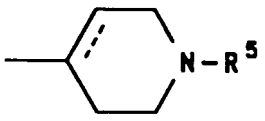


;

U represents nitrogen or C-R^2;

B represents oxygen, sulphur or N-R^3;

R^1 represents -CH_2.CHR^4.NR^6R^7 or a group of formula



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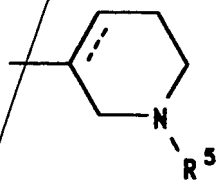


or

in which the broken line represents an optional chemical bond;

R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 independently represent hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl;

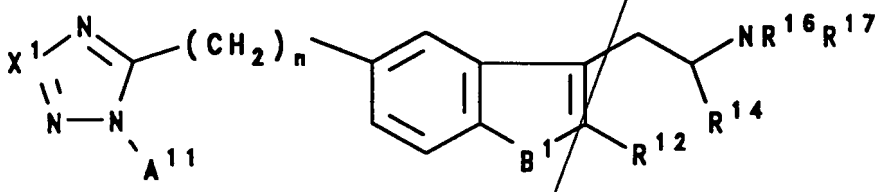
R^x and R^y independently represent hydrogen, hydrocarbon or a heterocyclic group, or R^x and R^y together represent a C_{2-6} alkylene group;

R^z represents hydrogen, hydrocarbon or a heterocyclic group;

T represents oxygen, sulphur or a group of formula =N.G; and

G represents hydrocarbon, a heterocyclic group or an electron-withdrawing group.

2. A compound according to claim 1 represented by formula IIA, and salts and prodrugs thereof:



(IIA)

wherein

X^1 represents nitrogen or A^{12}-C;

n is zero, 1, 2 or 3;

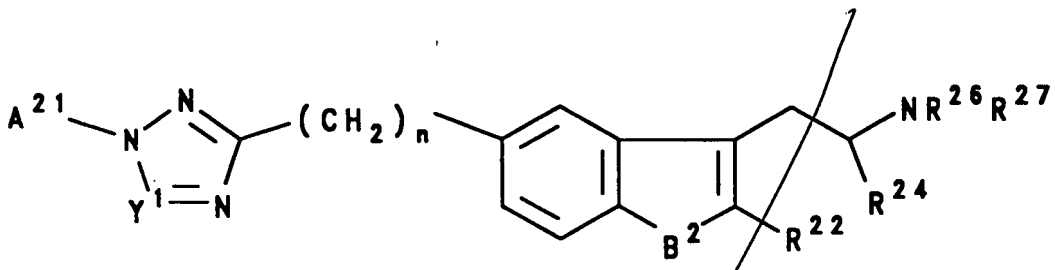
B^1 represents oxygen, sulphur or N-R^{13};

A^{11} and A^{12} are independently selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, aryl, aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted; and hydrogen, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio and $-NR^XR^Y$;

R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{16} and R^{17} independently represent hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; and

R^X and R^Y independently represent hydrogen, hydrocarbon or a heterocyclic group, or R^X and R^Y together represent a C_{2-6} alkylene group.

3. A compound according to claim 1 represented by formula IIB, and salts and prodrugs thereof:



(IIB)

wherein

Y^1 represents nitrogen or A^{22}-C;

n is zero, 1, 2 or 3;

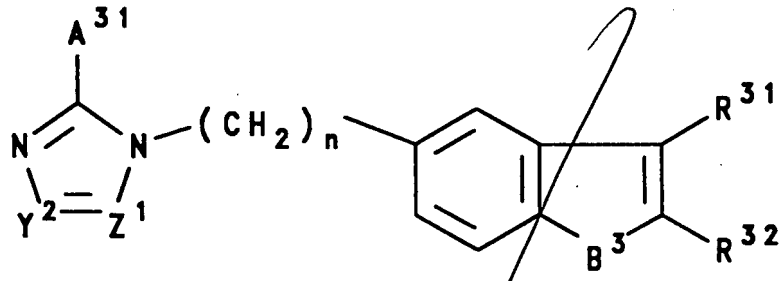
B^2 represents oxygen, sulphur or N-R^{23};

A^{21} and A^{22} are independently selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, aryl, aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted; and hydrogen, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio and $-NR^xR^y$;

R^{22}, R^{23}, R^{24}, R^{26} and R^{27} independently represent hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; and

R^x and R^y independently represent hydrogen, hydrocarbon or a heterocyclic group, or R^x and R^y together represent a C_{2-6} alkylene group.

4. A compound according to claim 1 represented by formula IIC, and salts and prodrugs thereof:



(I/C)

wherein

Y^2 represents nitrogen or A^{32}-C;

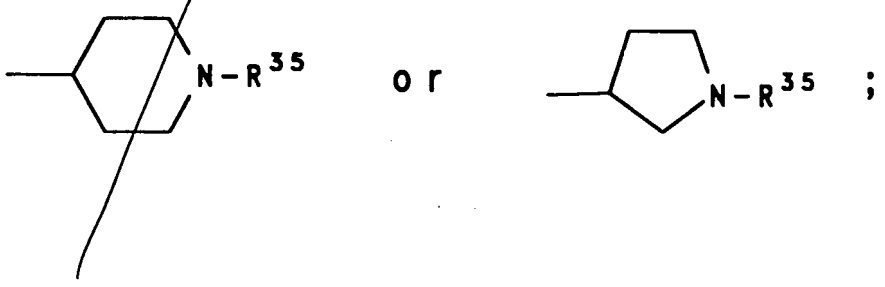
Z^1 represents nitrogen or CH;

n is zero, 1, 2 or 3;

B^3 represents oxygen, sulphur or N-R^{33};

A^{31} and A^{32} are independently selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, aryl, aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted; and hydrogen, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio and $-NR^xR^y$;

R^{31} represents $-CH_2.CHR^{34}.NR^{36}R^{37}$ or a group of formula



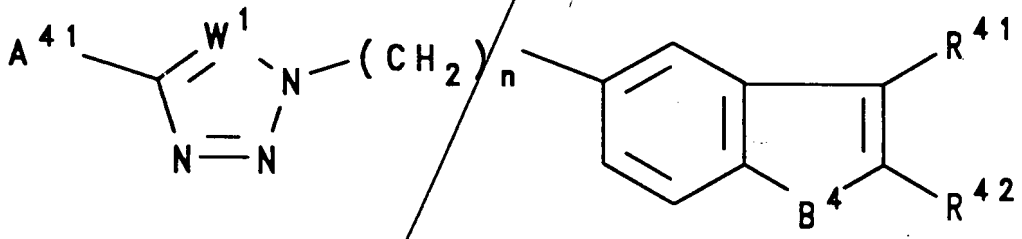
or

;

R^{32}, R^{33}, R^{34}, R^{35}, R^{36} and R^{37} independently represent hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; and

R^x and R^y independently represent hydrogen, hydrocarbon or a heterocyclic group, or R^x and R^y together represent a C_{2-6} alkylene group.

5. A compound according to claim 1 represented by formula IID, and salts and prodrugs thereof:



(IID)

wherein

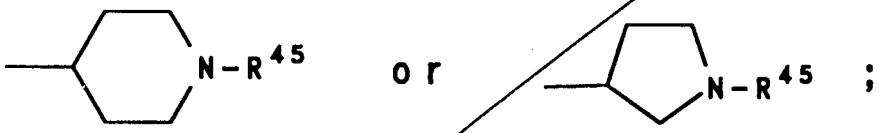
W^1 represents nitrogen or C-A^{42};

n is zero, 1, 2 or 3;

B^4 represents oxygen, sulphur or N-R^{43};

A^{41} and A^{42} are independently selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{2-6} alkynyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, aryl, aryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{3-7} heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaryl(C_{1-6})alkyl, any of which groups may be optionally substituted; and hydrogen, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio and -NR^xR^y;

R^{41} represents -CH_2.CHR^{44}.$NR^{46}R^{47}$ or a group of formula



R^{42}, R^{43}, R^{44}, R^{45}, R^{46} and R^{47} independently represent hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; and

R^x and R^y independently represent hydrogen, hydrocarbon or a heterocyclic group, or R^x and R^y together represent a C_{2-6} alkylene group.

6. A compound according to claim 1 selected from:

2-[5-(2-benzyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;

2-[5-(1-benzyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;

N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(1-methyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;

N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(2-methyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;

N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;

N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(tetrazol-2-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;

N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(tetrazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;

N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(1-methyl-1,2,4-triazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;

N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(1-methyl-1,2,4-triazol-3-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;

N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(1,2,3-triazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;
3-(2-aminoethyl)-5-(1-methyltetrazol-5-yl)-benzo[b]thiophene;
3-(2-aminoethyl)-5-(2-methyltetrazol-5-yl)-benzo[b]thiophene;
3-[2-(N,N-dimethylamino)ethyl]-5-(2-methyltetrazol-5-yl)benzo[b]thiophene;
N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(2-methylimidazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;
N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(imidazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;
N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(2-methylimidazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;
N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(2-ethyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;
N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(1-ethyltetrazol-5-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;
N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;
1-methyl-4-[5-(2-methylimidazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl]piperidine;
1-methyl-4-[5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]piperidine;
4-[5-(2-methylimidazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl]piperidine;
4-[5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]piperidine;
3-[5-(2-methylimidazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl]pyrrolidine;
1-methyl-3-[5-(2-methylimidazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl]pyrrolidine;
4-[5-(imidazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl]piperidine;
4-[5-(1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl]piperidine;
1-methyl-4-[5-(imidazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl]piperidine;
1-methyl-4-[5-(1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl]piperidine;

1-methyl-3-[5-(1,2,3-triazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl]pyrrolidine;
1-methyl-3-[5-(2-methylimidazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]pyrrolidine;
1-methyl-3-[5-(imidazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl]pyrrolidine;
1-methyl-3-[5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]pyrrolidine;
1-methyl-3-[5-(imidazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]pyrrolidine;
N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(2-aminoimidazol-1-yl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;
N,N-dimethyl-2-[5-(2-aminoimidazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;
N-methyl-2-[5-(1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]ethylamine;
and salts and prodrugs thereof.

7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

8. A method for the treatment and/or prevention of clinical conditions for which a selective agonist of 5-HT_1-like receptors is indicated, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.